steps keeping in view the health of women workers working in fish industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers. The Marine Producers Export Development Authority assists the seafood processors to upgrade their facilities to achieve equivalence with the European and US standards, by which the workers get better facilities in the processing plants. Extension Trainings are being given to pre-processing and processing workers for hygienic handling of fishery products.

Government has constituted a Task Force to study the living and working conditions of women workers employed in fish processing industry. The Task Force has initiated action to identify steps to be taken by Government for welfare of women workers.

Reward to informers of black money

† 3361. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared a new scheme to prevent corruption under which there is a provision to give reward to a person whose information regarding black money is found correct;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission has circulated a scheme namely 'Benami Black Money Scheme' on 12th July, 2000 inviting the members of the public to report to it the matters regardig possession of black money or disproportionate assets by public servants which after scrutiny, if considered sufficient, will be forwarded by the Commission to the Central Bureau of Investigation/ Income Tax

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Department. In suitable cases, the Commission may also advise the concerned authorities to move applications under the Criminal Law Amendment Act Ordinance, 1944 for confiscation of ill gotten money. While the Commission will not entertain anonymous or pseudonymous complaints, the identity of informants will not be disclosed if they so desire. The informants would also be eligible for suitable rewards directly from the Central Bureau of Investigation/ Income Tax Department under their respective schemes wherein those who give information leading to successful unearthing of black money and benami properties, are suitably rewarded. The scheme also cautions the complainants against furnishing information which they know or believe to be false attracting provision of Section 182 of Indian Penal Code. This according to the Commission, will act as a deterrent to corruption apart from ensuring that only genuine cases are reported.

Setting up of Commission to retrench surplus staff

† 3362. CHAUDHARY CHUNNILAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Commission with an objective to take step towards retrenchment of surplus staff in Government departments;

(b) if so, the terms thereof alongwith the time frame within which the Commission will submit its reports on that matter; and

(c) the total number of staff at present in Central Government departments and the shortage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No Commission has been set up by the Government with a specific objective to take steps for retrenchment of surplus staff in Central Government departments. However, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) have set up an Expenditure Reforms Commission by a Resolution dated 28 February, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan, former Finance Secretary. The terms of reference of the Commission are, inter alia, to suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government, to review

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.